



UNITED STATES NAVY

SEABEE

FALL 2008

SECURING THE FORCE

One Convoy at a Time

ALSO INSIDE:

Renewal in Iraq

**Pacific Road to
WWII Victory**

**NMCB 23's Border
Patrol Partnership**

Motorcycle Safety

WE BUILD ★ WE FIGHT

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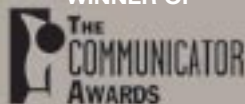
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WINNER OF



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ON THE COVER

A Seabee assigned to NMCB 1 mans his M240B machine gun in the vehicle turret as part of a convoy security element (CSE) in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, earlier this year. CSE teams provide convoy security to allow the safe passage of personnel, equipment and materials throughout the region. Photo by MC2 Chad Runge

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FINAL WORD

Experienced Seabee leaders share words
of wisdom with the newest chiefs

The joint warfighter and supported commanders value Seabees for delivering expeditionary engineering and construction whenever and wherever required.

– First Naval Construction Division, Vision 2008-2011

Our cover feature for this issue – “Securing the Force – One Convoy at a Time” – showcases a non-traditional role of the Seabees. Transporting personnel, equipment and materials throughout Iraq is dangerous work; but the “Can Do” Seabees have proven to be invaluable leaders of these security missions, in addition to their ongoing expeditionary engineering and construction duties.

This issue’s *Battalion Updates* shows ‘Bees operating in *Continuing Promise 2008* as CBMU 303 and NMCB 5 take the armed forces’ maritime strategy activities of humanitarian and civic assistance projects to Latin America. Also in *Updates*, NMCB 23 responds to a military assistance request from the U.S. Border Patrol and provides construction support to the Tucson Sector, the area with the highest number of illegal and drug trafficking crossings in the nation.

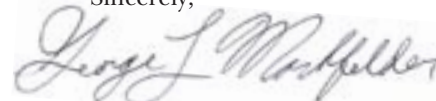
Our historical feature tells the story of the Seabees during the latter part of World War II, as they built roads, airfields and supply areas for the eventual Allied victory. Interestingly enough, a Seabee Underwater Demolition Team, precursor to the Underwater Construction Teams of today, received the first sword surrendered to an American force in the Japanese home islands in August 1945.

With motorcycle accidents on the rise nationwide and a fourfold increase in fatalities this year alone, Navy Traffic Safety Program regulations state that operators of government-owned and privately owned motorcycles (both on and off base, in the United States and overseas) must successfully complete a motorcycle safety course approved by the Commander, Naval Safety Center. In addition, through each base’s safety office, programs and group rides are sponsored to positively affect the well-being of military members. Check out the safety resources listed in this issue.

Final Word presents “Sage Advice” for our newly pinned chiefs – from those who know. Chief Petty Officers from the 22nd NCR and NMCB 4 take time to remember and pass the word.

Lastly, we bid a final farewell to CMDCM Alvin A. (Randy) Kuehn who passed away in early August. Kuehn served as Master Chief of the Seabees from 1998-2001 at NAVFAC’s Washington, D.C. headquarters.

Sincerely,



George L. Markfelder
Team Leader, *Seabee* Magazine

UNITED STATES NAVY

SEABEE

MAGAZINE

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EDITORIAL

SEABEE Magazine is scheduled quarterly (except for combined or other special issues) by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Public Affairs Office from the historic Washington Navy Yard, “the Quarterdeck of the Navy.” Our readership consists of Active and Reserve Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers and their families, as well as veterans, retirees and the general public. Letters and electronic mail are welcome on all Seabee-related topics and, if published, are subject to editing for length and clarity. Written and photographic submissions that show Active and Reserve Seabees are strongly encouraged. We prefer to receive all written and photographic submissions by e-mail to seabeemagazine@navy.mil. Film or digital images should include captions and be unmodified; digital files should measure at least 300dpi at 5x7 inches. All submissions must include the author’s full name, rank/rate, postal address, duty contact telephone number(s) and e-mail address. Submissions by regular postal mail are strongly discouraged due to security precautions that may damage fragile contents. If necessary, send all postal mail to:

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SECURING THE FORCE

One Convoy at a Time

On Sept. 1, 2008, responsibility for security in Anbar Province was transferred from the United States to Iraqi civilian authorities, marking the return of the 11th of 18 provinces to provincial Iraqi control. Iraqi forces are now taking the lead in security operations in Anbar, with American troops moving into an overwatch role. Formerly one of the most dangerous provinces in Iraq, Anbar has been transformed and reclaimed by the Iraqi people.

The Naval Construction Force has been and will continue to be instrumental in the renewal of Iraq – in both traditional and nontraditional roles. While most known for the “We Build” part of their motto, Seabees have been operating convoy security elements (CSEs) since 2003 – requiring specialized war-time skills to confront the ever-present danger of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and sniper fire. To date, Seabees have conducted more than 10,000 missions.

Photo illustration from U.S. Navy photos

CSE MISSION: PROTECT THE CONVOY

By MC2 Kenneth Robinson, 22nd NCR Public Affairs

Seabee convoy security elements (CSEs), driving Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, undergo rigorous training to protect passengers in treacherous areas of Iraq. By protecting convoy passengers, they allow vital construction projects and other missions to take place.



SECURING THE FORCE

One Convoy at a Time

Members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 17 deployed to Iraq this spring, with specially trained 'Bees volunteering to take on the task of convoy security.

The CSE is comprised of three teams led by LTJG Steven Fuentes. His background as a federal agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement provides valuable guidance and support to a team already comprised of civilian law enforcement officers.

Each team consists of vehicle commanders, drivers, gunners and medics. Although each member has a specific duty on the team, members are cross-trained to perform all tasks. This allows for versatility in the event that any member cannot complete the mission.

For NMCB 17, the selection and training for the CSE team began in May 2007 during the Battalion Military Training (M-Year) evolution at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. During this training period, battalion staff conducted a rigorous selection process involving in-depth interviews and candidate evaluations. The process focused on prior military and law enforcement training, social skills and the ability to work as a team.

Due to demanding physical requirements, CSE team members are held to a higher standard of physical readiness. They run farther than the Navy standard of 1.5 miles. They also participate in other training activities focused on strength and endurance, including the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

In addition, candidates are required to rigorously train in weapons proficiency and receive intense training on the use of the 9-millimeter service pistol, M-240B and M-2 machine guns, M-203 grenade launchers and M-16 rifles.

Each CSE team is assigned a Navy hospital corpsman who is specially trained in battlefield first aid and combat lifesaving. Also, every team member receives 21 hours of basic first aid training leading to a qualification as a Combat Lifesaver.

"It's very stressful, knowing that every time you step outside the wire [base camp], you're a potential target," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Tracy Garcia. "Being a team member is not only physically demanding, but at times it can take a toll on you mentally."

Besides taking care of themselves, CSE team members are responsible for the lives of the troops they are escorting.

"The missions are long, riding over very bumpy and poorly maintained roads," said Steelworker 1st Class Britton Wingfield. "They are done primarily at night, so you tend to become a night owl."

Other team members reflect on the long hours and dangerous travel conditions.

"As a teenager growing up on a rural South Dakota reservation, I used to hate running on the country roads," said Construction Electrician 1st Class Michael Conroy, a navigator for a CSE team. "My father encouraged me to focus not on getting to the end, but on the next telephone pole and soon you'll be at the end."

"Running convoys here in Iraq is a lot like that," Conroy continued. "As lead navigator, I focus on making it to the next fence post. Eventually, we make it to the end of the road and back into friendly territory."

Fuentes expressed confidence in his teams. "Despite the dangers the teams face every day when outside the wire, I feel safest when I am riding along with them; their professionalism and training is second to none," he said.

"AS LEAD NAVIGATOR, I FOCUS ON MAKING IT TO THE NEXT FENCE POST. EVENTUALLY, WE MAKE IT TO THE END OF THE ROAD AND BACK INTO FRIENDLY TERRITORY."

CE1 Michael Conroy, NMCB 17

(Left to right) EO2 (SCW) Leighanna Herring, HM3 Jeremy Dicus, EO3 Joshua Brown and SWC (SCW) Robert Taylor, members of one of NMCB 3's CSE teams, prepare to convoy out of Camp Ramadi, Iraq. The CSE teams provide safe escort for coalition equipment, and military and civilian personnel from one camp to another.

Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yopez



SWCA Chantelle Schweiger (left) and BU3 Joshua Knolla, NMCB 3, inspect a truck as it departs Camp Ramadi, Iraq. Schweiger and Knolla are part of NMCB 3's Convoy Security Element whose mission is to ensure safe movement of personnel and supplies throughout Anbar Province in Iraq.

Photo by MC2 Dustin Coveny

22nd NCR Takes On Specialized Force Protection Role

By MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce, 22nd NCR Public Affairs

During its deployment to Iraq, the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment's (NCR's) main role has been to provide general engineering support for the Multi National Force-West in the Anbar Province of Iraq.

This role is nothing new for the Seabees. Since their inception in 1942, Seabees have worked and fought alongside their Marine Corps brethren.

However, Storekeeper 2nd Class Steve Ziemendorf and Yeoman Seaman Phillip Thomas, 22nd NCR, were called upon to serve a slightly different mission. Ziemendorf and Thomas were selected to provide force protection at South Entry Control Point (ECP) at Camp Fallujah.

"We stand a basic military watch monitoring the supply routes leading up to the [South] ECP, as well as all incoming and outgoing military convoys," Ziemendorf said. "We also monitor third-country national (TCN) truck drivers entering the base with supplies that range from food to mail to construction materials."

They are responsible for searching all TCN trucks and trailers for anything suspicious.

"There are certain items that TCNs are not allowed to have so we confiscate them," Ziemendorf explains. "Truck drivers are allowed to carry weapons with them while on the road, but

all weapons must be turned over to us voluntarily before they enter the base. We return them when they depart.

"If weapons are found hidden on their person or within the cabs or trailers of their trucks, we have to confiscate them and they are not returned," he added.

Thomas is relatively new to the Navy and excited about this challenging assignment.

"I came in the Navy to travel the world. I enlisted just over a year ago and now I find myself here in Iraq serving my country," Thomas said. "I like my regular job as a yeoman, but I feel I'm contributing to the war effort more directly when I'm out here on watch."

Ziemendorf, a mobilized reservist who joined the 22nd NCR back in January, feels that his current, although temporary, job is an important one.

"I have to make sure that nothing bad happens once the military convoys and supply trucks enter the camp," Ziemendorf said.

Like most jobs, whether it's in the military or in the civilian world, eight-hour shifts ebb and flow.

"It's an exciting job, but when there are no convoys or TCN supply trucks coming in it can get rather slow," Thomas said. "When we're busy with a lot of traffic time goes by really fast."

NMCB 3 Builds Highway Patrol Station to Deter Insurgents

By MC1 Carmichael Yopez, NMCB 3 Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 completed an Iraqi Highway Patrol (IHP) station along one of the main highways that leads into the border with Syria in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. The IHP station is one of several checkpoints constructed to help deter insurgents.

"This is going to help the Iraqis control safe passageway for coalition forces and the Iraqi people," said Chief Construction Electrician (SCW) Antonio Murray, project supervisor. "We are in a remote location, so the Iraqi Highway Patrol station will help bring this area under control."

The station is equipped to house approximately 100 IHP officers. The facility allows them to be self sustaining and provides a base from which to patrol the highway and surrounding area.

When the 23 Seabees from NMCB 3's Delta Company arrived at the construction site, their first mission was to build a fortress-like barrier around the perimeter so they could work safely during the construction phase. They placed more than 4,000 sand-filled Hesco barriers around the compound. The barriers can be up to seven feet tall and five feet thick, and can be stacked on top of each other to prevent sniper attacks.

Seabees worked around the clock to finish the IHP station within the allotted 30-day timeframe. They placed prefabricated berthing spaces, showers, bathrooms and a small kitchen which were transported to the site and assembled.

For almost a month, the Seabees made the daily trip from their main base, escorted by one of NMCB 3's convoy security element (CSE) teams. The CSE team also provided perimeter security while Seabees worked at the site.

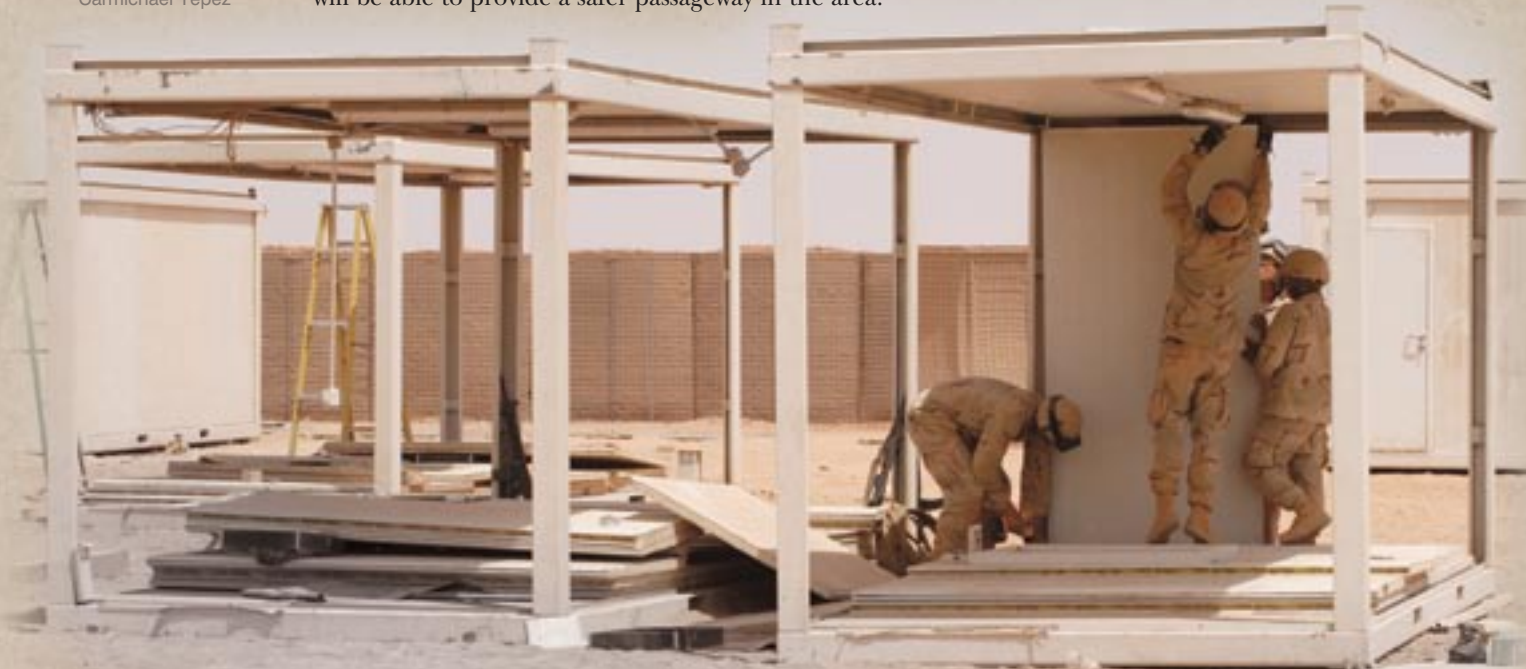
"We could not get out here without the protection of the CSE," said Murray who explained that when they first arrived, "...a group of Marines stopped and told us we could not proceed because they had discovered an improvised explosive device."

For Seabees like Builder Constructionman Joshua McClure, the opportunity to work on the IHP project provided him with plenty of experience, in and outside his rate.

"It has been a great experience," said McClure. "It wasn't only construction skills I've learned, but I've also created a good bond with my fellow workers and our security team. We have been able to create something in the middle of the desert where nothing existed. And thanks to our efforts, the Iraqi Highway Patrol will be able to provide a safer passageway in the area."

Seabees assigned to NMCB 3 assemble a prefabricated berthing facility during the construction of an Iraqi Highway Patrol station at Ramadi in May to help deter insurgents near the Syrian border in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Photo by MC1
Carmichael Yopez



Camouflaged 'IEDs' Uncovered by 22nd NCR

By UCCM (SCW) Richard Darrah, 22nd NCR Public Affairs

In late April, Seabees from the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) attended Multi National Force-West (MNF-W) Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Improvised Explosive Device (IED) training in Iraq – a refresher course designed to help Seabees identify explosive devices planted by the enemy.

The local EOD unit sponsors this course and makes it as real as possible with a 'hands-on' approach using IEDs recovered from actual missions. For added realism, EOD had personnel walk a course strewn with inert IEDs camouflaged and hidden the way they would be in theater.

The course covered a variety of topics such as the components that comprise an IED, common explosives used, different methods the enemy uses to initiate the device, and how it is employed against coalition forces.

Following the initial classroom portion of the training, EOD personnel walked the class around the IED road course and challenged all to find the concealed inert IEDs. On a few

occasions, personnel were completely unaware that they were standing right on top of emplaced IEDs until the instructor unearthed them.

This was a shock to many, but the experience gave them an earnest appreciation for all Seabees and Marines who come into contact with IEDs on a daily basis as they traverse the roads in Iraq.

"The training makes you realize how hostile the environment can be here in Iraq," said Engineering Aide 2nd Class (SCW) Adrian Floy. "Everyone who arrives in country should receive this training."

Steelworker 1st Class (SCW) Michael Salerno believes the training he received gave him a much better understanding of what Seabees face every day.

"The training was awesome," Salerno said. "The walk-through with the EOD personnel was thorough and improved our understanding on how the enemy emplaces and conceals IEDs."

22nd NCR personnel walk the IED road course set up by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Team in Iraq. Training and sustainment opportunities continue from homeport through deployment.

Photo by MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce





The Naval Construction Force has been and will continue to be instrumental in the renewal of Iraq – in both traditional and nontraditional roles. The United States and the nations of Multi-National Forces-Iraq stand with the Iraqis as they work to build a democracy in the heart of the Middle East. In meeting the overall objectives of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Seabees are the prime movers in completing critical construction projects in Anbar Province, as well as throughout the region, as success moves toward the Diyala Province, Baghdad, Basra and Mosul.



Tractors and dump trailers assigned to NMCB 17 Rockhounds arrive on station in April to deliver payloads of aggregate to a large-scale project. Rockhounds supply aggregate to Navy, Army and Marine worksites throughout the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Photo by MC2 Kenneth W. Robinson

NMCB 17

22nd NCR

Rockhounds – Building Freedom One Truckload at a Time

By EOC (SCW) Martin O'Horo, 22nd NCR Public Affairs

A team of Seabee equipment operators and construction mechanics from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 17 was tasked with delivering mineral aggregate products throughout the Multi National Force-West (MNF-W) area of operations during its deployment. These Seabees, known collectively as the Rockhounds, were assigned by the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) to support critical construction projects throughout the Al Anbar Province of Iraq earlier this spring.

Projects were as varied as re-grading a parking lot for military training teams, building a boat launch for Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) security operations, constructing expeditionary camps and supporting critical route repair missions. The

common denominator in virtually all projects is gravel and lots of it.

The 22nd NCR, in its capacity as an MNF-W major subordinate command, tasked the Rockhound team with ensuring materials are delivered to project sites on time in an ever-changing environment. It is essential for Rockhounds to always be at the ready. They can be expected to travel anywhere throughout the area of operations delivering gravel on time and on target, spending as much as a week away from their base at a time.

“Rockhound personnel are building freedom one truckload of rock at a time,” said Chief Equipment Operator Ana Sarver, NMCB 17, in charge of the Rockhound team. “Without these highly motivated Seabees hauling rock almost every day, most projects would come to a standstill.”

Class IV: The Lifeblood of Expeditionary Construction

22nd NCR

By MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce, 22nd NCR Public Affairs

The Class IV yards located throughout the Anbar Province of Iraq and run by the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) can be considered the lifeblood of military construction in the region.

Class IV are materials used for construction, such as lumber, electrical, masonry, aggregate, plumbing hardware and roofing supplies.

“We’ll supply anyone (U.S. Navy, Army or Marine Corps units) who comes to us for assistance in furthering construction efforts across all lines of operations,” said CDR James

Peltier, 22nd NCR’s logistics officer.

The process for the procurement of materials from the Class IV yards starts with the determination of what materials are required. “The Seabees are here to build,” said LT Brian

“The Seabees are here to build. We only have a finite number of working days on deployment...each one is crucial.”

LT Brian Huckaby, 22nd NCR

Huckaby added. “We only have a finite number of working days on deployment, so each one is crucial.”

Huckaby, 22nd NCR’s Class IV officer, “and if they don’t have the construction materials to build with, it’s a day they are not working to their full capacity.

“We can’t go back in time and recover that lost work day,”

22nd NCR personnel offload lumber at one of the Class IV yards for eventual delivery to construction project sites in Iraq’s Anbar Province.

Photo by BUC Phillip M Bennett





Outpost Turned Over to Iraqis

NMCB 17

LT Scott Bender, NMCB 17, leads members of the Iraqi Army on a tour of the newly completed combat outpost (COP) located in the Iraqi desert. Construction of the COP began in May and continued day and night until completed in mid-June. The 60-member crew, also known as the 'Desert Battalion,' endured harsh working conditions as the searing heat rose well above 130 degrees Fahrenheit.

Photo by MC2 Kenneth W. Robinson



Seabees Upgrade Waste Water Treatment System

NMCB 3

A Seabee assigned to NMCB 3 Detail Taqaddum sprays water to minimize dust during the construction of a water waste pit at Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq. NCMB 3 completed improvements to the waste water treatment system, upgrading the Iraqi Army's self-sustainment capabilities, on June 30. During its deployment, NMCB 3 provided general engineering support to Multi National Force-West in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Photo by MC2 Dustin Coveny

Wedding via Satellite is a Unique Deployment Highlight

By MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce,
22nd NCR Public Affairs

Through the power of technology and with the help of the Freedom Calls Foundation, Personnel Specialist 1st Class Linda Priddy and Chief Gunner's Mate Remon Peterson were married on April 18, despite being separated by roughly 6,500 miles. At the time, Priddy was attached to the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) and deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq, while Peterson was attending the Navy's Vertical Launching System "C" School at Naval Station Dam Neck, Va.



22nd NCR

(At right) PS1 Linda Priddy, 22nd NCR, deployed to Iraq, displays her ring and (above) participates in her wedding teleconference, exchanging "I dos" with Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Remon Peterson, stationed at Naval Station Dam Neck, Va.

U.S. Navy photos
by Cpl. Sean P. McGinty



According to Priddy, when they made the decision to get married she was already deployed to Iraq so the couple took advantage of Operation Homelink, a program offered by the Freedom Calls Foundation.

Less than a half an hour after the ceremony began, Petty Officer Priddy became Petty Officer Peterson. While most ceremonies conclude with the traditional kiss, followed by a reception and a honeymoon, for these newlyweds the only special time afforded them was 20 minutes alone via satellite.

"To those around me nothing has physically changed. I'm still here in Iraq and I go to work each day to the same office with the same people," Petty Officer Peterson said. "But, for Remon and me, we know our whole world has changed forever."

Making a Difference at FOB Delta...Seabee Style

ACB 2

By EO2 (SCW) Douglas Fritz, ACB 2 Detachment India

The last place you might expect to find an Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) is in the middle of the desert of southern Iraq, but that is exactly where ACB 2's Detachment India set up shop from January through July. Providing construction support and base improvements for Coalition Forces at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Delta, these Seabees made a difference in the effectiveness and capability for numerous commands.

The biggest effort for the most recent deployment was the construction of a Tactical Operations Center (TOC). It measures just under 10,000 square feet and is one of the largest wooden structures in Iraq built by troop labor.

"Completing the Brigade TOC within the timeline we were given, amidst the brutal wind and sandstorms, and simultaneously working on several other projects, was a seemingly impossible task that we accomplished in true Seabee style," said

LCDR Michael Hermanson, officer in charge, ACB 2 Detachment India.

Detachment India Seabees also constructed a facility for the embedded Provincial

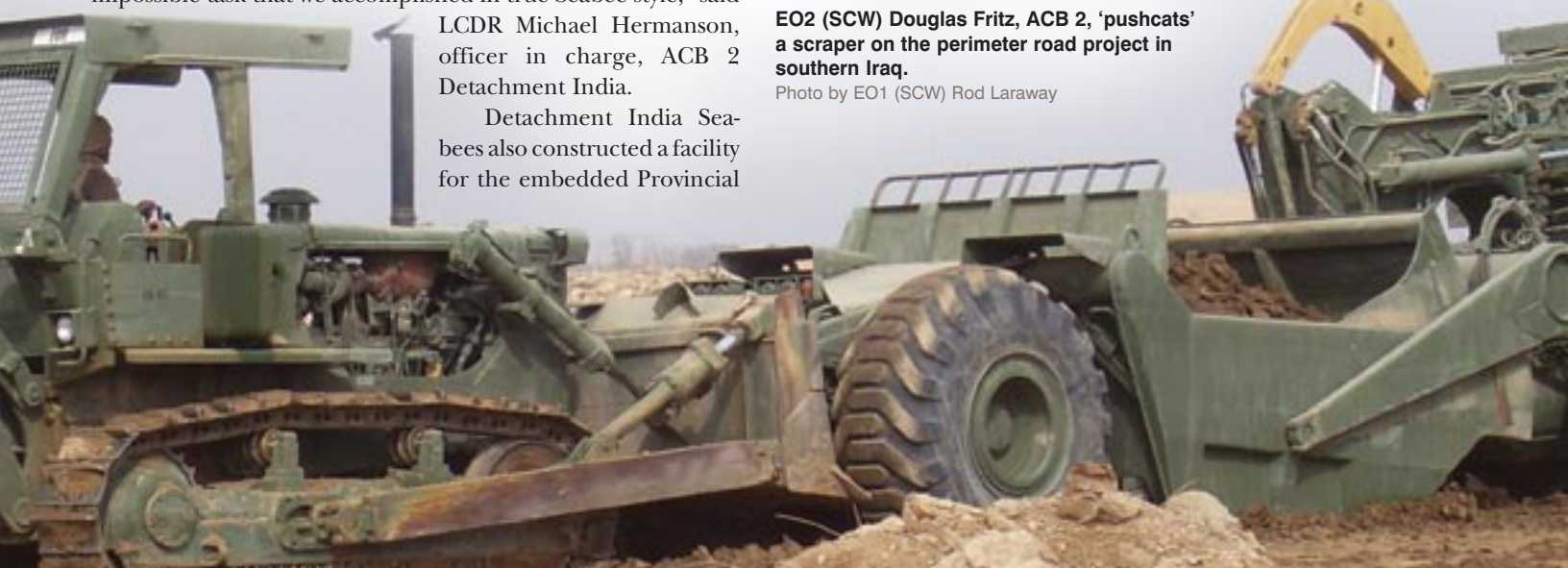
Reconstruction Team. This State Department organization was in dire need of work spaces in the Wasit Province. With the help of nearly every member of the detachment, a 4,500-square-foot structure was completed in only 21 days, 10 days ahead of schedule.

While new construction projects tend to be the focus of attention, many Seabees of Detachment India say the service calls also brought real job satisfaction. Some examples of these small, but important, jobs included adding air conditioning to lounge spaces, putting up partitions to offer privacy during off hours and installing water heaters.

"We provided numerous amenities to raise the morale of the troops stationed at FOB Delta," said Operations Chief Equipment Operator Constructionman (SCW) Steven Slusser.

EO2 (SCW) Douglas Fritz, ACB 2, 'pushcats' a scraper on the perimeter road project in southern Iraq.

Photo by EO1 (SCW) Rod Laraway



'Tiger Team' Seabees Improve Marines' Quality of Life

NMCB 17


By MC2 Kenneth W. Robinson, 22nd NCR Public Affairs

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 17's 'Tiger Team' have addressed quality-of-life issues for Marines in outlying areas of operation. The Tiger Team, led by Chief Builder E. Newlen Sutton, has significantly improved the lives of the Marines in the field.

"Construction Electrician 1st Class David Blythe had initially done a site survey to assess the functionality of the Combat Outpost shower trailers. Once on site, he determined that

BU2 Kenneth O'Donnel (left), NMCB 17, stands with Master Sgt. Sean McBride, senior enlisted advisor at a remote Marine outpost. O'Donnel and other Seabees assigned to NMCB 17 are members of a quality-of-life 'Tiger Team.'

Photo by MC2 Kenneth W. Robinson

NMCB 3 NMCB 3 

RADM Richard E. Cellon, commander, 1NCD, greets SWCN Kayla Gleisner, NMCB 3, during his visit to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in May. Cellon visited Iraq to assess the current status of Seabees in the region.

Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yopez

1NCD Commander Visits Seabees in Ramadi

By MC1 Carmichael Yopez, NMCB 3 Public Affairs

RADM Richard E. Cellon, commander, First Naval Construction Division (1NCD), paid a visit to the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 in Ramadi, Iraq, on May 4.

"I've been very impressed with what I've seen today," said Cellon, as he spoke to a large group of Seabees gathered at the camp's gym. "I recently saw you when I presented the Battle "E" and Peltier awards. I can say that you are off to a good start. I just ask you not to be complacent; we want you to come home safely."

Cellon later made his way through the battalion's facilities. His target audience was junior Seabees since he was interested in hearing about their experiences and how well they were adapting to the environment in Iraq.

"I thought it was going to be more dangerous," replied Steelworker Constructionman Kayla Gleisner, who was welding when the admiral walked into her shop. "I get to do what I was trained to do, and I love it every day," she explained.

Cellon culminated his visit at an admiral's call where he discussed the future structure of the Seabees and how the Naval Construction Force is looking for ways to provide more technical skills training during the homeport period.

the trailers were a health hazard," said Marine Corps Master Sgt. Sean McBride, senior enlisted advisor at the outpost.

"What we have now is essentially a totally refurbished shower trailer. The impact on morale is huge. Marines coming from a long, dusty patrol can now shower and not have to worry about conducting personal hygiene using bottled water," said McBride.

The Tiger Team is comprised of highly skilled Seabees with tools and materials who perform quality-of-life, safety and force protection upgrades to remote Marine outposts. Each team member is not only an expert in his own rate, but is also proficient in all construction trades. They must make on-the-spot decisions, with limited materials and time, which will affect the lives of scores of Marines at each location.

"What the team does out here is what being a Seabee is all about. They are a team of highly skilled Seabees riding into the desolate wastelands in search of adventure and showers that don't drain," said Sutton with a grin.

Students Stay in Touch with Deployed Seabees, Thanks to 'Flat Steve'

By LTJG Jennifer Grob, NMCB 3

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 Task Force Sierra, deployed to Afghanistan, kept close ties with students from California thanks to a two-foot-tall paper man named 'Flat Steve.'

Students from Mrs. Cindy Jensen's 2nd grade class in Camarillo, Calif., created the paper man based on a similar character named 'Flat Stanley' from Jeff Brown's children's book.



HM2 (FMF) Steven East (left) and CM2 Jason Miller (right) sit with Flat Steve, a two-foot-tall paper man, at the airport terminal in Kuwait.

U.S. Navy photo

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Steven East, whose seven-year-old son is in Mrs. Jensen's class, brought Flat Steve with him during the first few months of his deployment.

"There are several 'Flat' people traveling around the world," said East. "I'm thrilled to do this for my son and his class. I think it's a great way to show the kids different parts of the world, while at the same time help some students relate to where their family members are while deployed."

Flat Steve's journey began in Port Hueneme, Calif. He traveled to Maine, Germany and Kuwait before arriving at his final destination in Afghanistan.

"I'm glad we can show these children the world as we see it, and some of the good things we are doing out here," said Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Jason Miller. "I have three children of my own, so I know how important it is to reassure them we're doing okay."

Keeping the

22nd NCR Chaplain Earns Senior Officer Leadership Award

By MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce, 22nd NCR Public Affairs



CDR Anne Krekelberg (left) and RPC Joyce Crawford, 22nd NCR, prepare to hop on a ferry to cross the Euphrates River during a trip to visit Seabees at Al Taqaddum, Iraq.

Photo by MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce

CDR Anne Krekelberg, 22nd Naval Construction Regiment's (NCR's) command chaplain, has earned the 2008's CAPT Joy Bright Hancock (JBH) Leadership Award in the senior officer category.

The JBH Leadership Awards honor the visionary leadership of a naval officer whose ideals and dedication led to the integration of women in the regular Navy. CAPT Joy Bright Hancock served in both the First and Second World Wars and was one of the first female officers in the U.S. Navy. She retired from active duty in June 1953.

"I feel like the guy at the Oscars who never won an Oscar, but received the lifetime achievement award," Krekelberg said. "I'm humbled. I'm amazed that anyone would consider me on the same level as Joy Bright Hancock."

Krekelberg says winning this award came as a complete surprise. She didn't even know she had been nominated by her boss, CAPT Robert McLean, 22nd NCR's commander.

"It recognizes her leadership and service throughout her career but, in my opinion, it most especially acknowledges her pioneering leadership in operational assignments [to include the first female chaplain on an amphibious ship], in serving on the Chief of Chaplain's staff and as the head chaplain detailee," McLean said. "It also reflects her leadership within the Naval Construction Force, serving as the first regimental chaplain to deploy to Camp Bucca, Iraq, in support of Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion Two, and her current deployment here with us in Iraq in support of Multi National Force-West."

Krekelberg received her award at the 21st Annual Women's Leadership Symposium in July at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne, Va.

In a career filled with challenging operational assignments, tours where she had a direct impact on the career paths of fellow chaplains, and an assignment providing counseling and ministry in an extremely demanding and highly stressful environment, Krekelberg says she

(Continued)

Faith in Fallujah

values daily interaction with people most.

"Overall, the most rewarding experience throughout my career has been the relationships. Everyone has a story," she said. "If you listen closely enough, everyone's story is important, unique and fascinating, no matter who they are or what they've done with their life."

CDR Anne Krekelberg, 22nd NCR's command chaplain.

Photo by MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce



RPC Right at Home with Seabees in Iraq

By MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce, 22nd NCR Public Affairs



RPC Joyce Crawford, 22nd NCR

U.S. Navy photo

Chief Religious Program Specialist Joyce Crawford deployed in February 2008 to Camp Fallujah, Iraq, with the Seabees from the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) where they provided general engineering support to the Multi National Force-West.

Chief Crawford assisted the regimental chaplain by providing administrative support, and by mentoring and supervising religious ministry teams throughout the Anbar Province of Iraq.

"We needed to be aware of the ministry needs of personnel, and we made sure they were met," Crawford said.

Chief Crawford has been in the Navy for 16 years. She was mobilized last January to the 22nd NCR. This was the first time in her career that she'd been assigned with the Seabees. According to Crawford, her deployment to Iraq was a very positive experience.

"Our unit was close-knit and we all looked after one another like members of a family," Crawford said. "The people I worked with rolled with constant changes better than any unit I had been with previously. I had expected to be nervous all the time because Iraq can be a very dangerous place. However, I ended up feeling very comfortable because I had a lot of confidence in my leadership."

Chief Crawford is proud of the work she did in Iraq and felt she connected with others in a meaningful way.

"My contribution while in Iraq was to help maintain positive morale among the service members deployed with the 22nd NCR and their subordinate battalions," Crawford said. "I had the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives in an environment where you need to pay close attention to their spiritual needs. When people are put in an environment that is out of the ordinary, they are more apt to open up to others about their spirituality. I became a conduit for them during these times."

NMCB 3's Dental Clinic Helps Support Mission in Iraq

NMCB 3

By MC1 Carmichael Yopez, NMCB 3 Public Affairs, and
LT Jack Fiedler, NMCB 3 Dental Department

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3's deployment to Iraq provided its Dental Department some unique opportunities to support the Global War on Terror, while at the same time adding smiles to hundreds of Seabees and third country nationals (TCNs) in Iraq.

According to LT Jack Fiedler, NMCB 3 dental officer, overall, military personnel exhibit good dental health thanks to prevention and routine care at home. He added that the majority of people who are in need of more serious dental treatment are TCNs.



HMHA Philip Naccarato (left) assists LT Jack Fiedler, a dentist assigned to the Seabees of NMCB 3, as he extracts a molar on a Sudanese patient at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in May. NMCB 3's Dental Department, manned by Fiedler and two corpsmen, provides dental care for hundreds of multinational forces and third country nationals at Camp Ramadi.

Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yopez

When Adam, a TCN from Sudan, couldn't tolerate the pain in his mouth any longer, he came to the dental clinic. His interpreter explained that he had been in pain for several days.

"I had to extract two severely decayed molars," said Fiedler. "A toothache and a long-standing infection do not just disappear."

Thirty minutes later Adam was a little confused as to how many molars he was missing. However, through his interpreter he said he was no longer in pain.

"Adam says, 'Thank you, doctor,'" the interpreter translated.

According to Fiedler, each patient who walks out of his clinic with his dental problems resolved is one more person who will be able to continue to support the mission.

"As part of the Seabees, we provide more than just construction skills," he said. "We support the mission in any way we can."



Camp Moreell: From Tent Camp to Logistics Hub

By LT Jose Deliz, 22nd NCR (Forward)

Sitting at the edge of the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait is Camp Moreell, the 'home away from home' for Naval Construction Force (NCF) units serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and the Horn of Africa. Named after ADM Ben Moreell, 'Father of the Seabees,' the facility's mission is to support deployed Seabees.

Established in the fall of 2002 and constructed by the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5, the facility was initially a tent camp used in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. It has since matured into the primary logistics hub for all Seabee operations in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations, and provides transient berthing, training, embark, logistics and operational oversight support to all NCF units currently serving in theater, as well as many other Navy and coalition partners. It also serves as headquarters of the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) (Forward) and Commander Task Group 56.2.

Every NCF unit deployed to CENT-

COM goes through Camp Moreell. The camp has the capacity to berth more than 650 personnel. A staff of over 50 Seabees is responsible for camp maintenance and operations. Camp Moreell has classrooms for tactical and Warrior Transition (WT) training, recreation facilities, office space and conference facilities.

...as the portal into the Middle East, a memorial honoring fallen Seabees stands as a reminder of the sacrifices made in support of our nation and the role played by Seabees.

As the final stop before entering Iraq or Afghanistan, Seabee units receive the final pieces of personal protective equipment at Camp Moreell, draw their weapons and ammunition with support from the armory and staff, and receive final training to prepare for their deployment into theater.

Another major function of Camp Moreell is the management of all Civil Engineering Support Equipment (CESE); a large portion of the camp is dedicated to heavy equipment maintenance, staging and shipment. The coordination of travel and shipment of personnel, supplies and equipment throughout the theater is also handled at the camp with the Embark Department moving more than 7,500 personnel and 1.1 million pounds of cargo in the span of six months alone.

Upon completion of their deployment, Seabees returning home stop again at Camp Moreell for their WT training. The program helps Seabees transition from the stress of wartime deployment back to the more routine environment of homeport and life with their families.

Since its establishment, Camp Moreell has steadily improved its facilities and upgraded the scope of services. Upcoming improvements include additional armory upgrades and a complete renovation of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation spaces.

Seabees assigned to the 22nd NCR (Forward) muster at Camp Moreell in Kuwait on May 8 to dedicate a bronze statue honoring comrades killed in action since the start of the Global War on Terror.

Photo by MC1 Michael B. W. Watkins



Purple Hearts



Seabee IA Killed in Afghanistan

By Daryl C. Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 1st NCD

Construction Mechanic 1st Class Ross L. Toles III was killed June 18 as a result of wounds suffered from an enemy rocket attack in the northern Paktika Province of Afghanistan. The 37-year-old was a member of Navy Operational Support Center Detroit, and was assigned as an Individual Augmentee (IA) to Provincial Reconstruction Team Sharana. He was a native of Davison, Mich.

Known to his friends as "Bud," Toles joined the Navy in 1989 and had served eight years' active duty and 10 years in the reserves.

He was employed at General Motors' Pontiac Assembly Center. An avid motorcyclist, he leaves behind a wife and three sons.

Photo not available at press time

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

Naval Special Warfare Seabee Earns Purple Heart

By NSWG 1 Public Affairs

LT Dennis J. Riordan, Logistics and Support Unit (LOGSU) 1, was awarded the Purple Heart medal during a ceremony on May 29. Riordan is the first service member presented the Purple Heart for activities in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Philippines. He earned the distinction for wounds received on Dec. 17 when his helicopter came under enemy fire while flying to a Philippine Marine Base to conduct a survey for future facility upgrades.



LT Dennis J. Riordan

U.S. Navy photo



PRELUDE TO

By MC1 (SW) Kurt Riggs, NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs and Communications

On Sept. 2, 1945, victory over Japan (V-J) was formally declared during a ceremony aboard USS *Missouri* (BB-63) in Tokyo Bay. The destructive force of nuclear weapons had destroyed the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing the once mighty and fiercely proud empire of the rising sun to its knees in what is now remembered as the most destructive conflict in human history. World War II was over, and for the citizens of Japan rebuilding a nation was the order of the day. For the Seabees of the U.S. Navy, this was the culmination of nearly four years of concentrated effort in one of the most impressive wartime construction efforts in all of history.

A Japanese soldier walks through the leveled city of Hiroshima, Japan, September 1945.

Sources: "Seabee History: Formation of the Seabees and World War II," Naval Historical Center, www.history.navy.mil, November 13, 1997; *Building the Navy's Bases in World War II*; *History of the Bureau of Yards and Docks and the Civil Engineer Corps, 1940-1946, Volume II*, United States Government Printing Office, 1947. U.S. Navy photos courtesy of the U.S. National Archives and the Naval Historical Center.



(Left) LCDR Edward Porter Clayton (center, back to camera), commanding officer, Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) 21, receives the first sword surrendered to an American force in the Japanese home islands. The surrender was made by a Japanese Army Coast Artillery Major (standing opposite Clayton) at Futsu-misaki, across Tokyo Bay from Yokosuka Navy Base, Aug. 28, 1945. Members of UDT 21 had landed from USS *Burke* (APD-65), whose boats are beached in this view.

Since their inception in 1942, the Navy's Construction Battalions (CBs or Seabees) went to work cementing their legendary status with awesome feats of engineering. In the North, Central and South Pacific areas, the Seabees built 111 major airstrips, 441 piers, 2,558 ammunition magazines,

theater of operations. Beginning the operation with the island of Saipan, Seabees and Marines landed together on the beaches of Guam, and finally Tinian, a small island roughly the size of Manhattan. It was from this airfield, constructed entirely by the Seabees, that USS *Indianapolis* would deliver the

THE SURRENDER

700 square blocks of warehouses, hospitals to serve 70,000 patients, tanks for the storage of 100 million gallons of gasoline and housing for 1.5 million men. In all of these construction and fighting operations, the Pacific Seabees suffered more than 200 combat deaths and earned more than 2,000 Purple Hearts, serving on four continents and more than 300 islands. At the time of Japan's surrender, of the 325,000 men in the Naval Construction Force, 82 percent of them were in the Pacific theater.

It was during Operation *Forager*, as the Marianas Campaign was named, that the Seabees made some of their most significant contributions in the Pacific

results of the Manhattan project – an operational nuclear weapon.

On August 6, 1945, the device was loaded into the B-29 *Enola Gay*, which then took off from the Seabee-constructed airfield for its mission to deliver its contents over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Ten days later a cease fire negotiated by the Japanese government went into effect before formal surrender ceremonies took place on Sept. 2. The Pacific roads to victory had reached their final destination.

(Below) Men of the 302nd CB repair a pontoon causeway that had broached at Tinian's "White Two" beach during a storm, Aug. 1, 1944.



(Above) Painter 1st Class Roscoe Saunders (right) adds the Seabee emblem to the B-29 Bomber *Indian Maid* at Tinian in late 1944. At left is Seabee Shipfitter 3rd Class Eddie Schouest. Schouest had the idea of painting the Seabee insignia on the plane since it was sponsored by the 67th CB and wears its insignia.



Seabees in Latin America

“Continuing Promise reflects our commitment to work with partner nations in pursuit of ways in which we can help those less fortunate in Latin America...Seabees are a critical component of the crews of USS Boxer and USS Kearsarge that provide humanitarian assistance. Their engineering expertise ensures the completion of key infrastructure projects.”

*RADM James W. Stevenson Jr.
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command*

CBMU 303

NMCCB 5

Seabees Deliver on *Promise* for Latin American Communities

Building and repairing schools are only two of many community services Seabees from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 303 and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 provided while deployed with USS *Boxer* (LHD 4) in support of *Continuing Promise 2008* to Central and South America. The units embarked *Boxer* in late April to participate in the 62-day operation.

Continuing Promise's Pacific Phase is one of two humanitarian and civic assistance deployments planned for Latin America in 2008; the USS *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) departed in August for the second phase.

Side-by-side success

Over a period of eight days in May, CBMU 303 and NMCB 5 Seabees completed work across six sites, including three schools, one church and two main roads. The work included demolishing and replacing roofs, constructing new school houses and replacing doors and windows, in addition to painting and landscaping repairs. Throughout the entire operation, Seabees worked side-by-side with Guatemalan military civil engineers who contributed their own experience and skills to the projects.

“The Guatemalan engineers are phenomenal,” said Chief Builder (SCW) Thomas Whiley, assistant officer-in-charge for the engineering contingent of *Continuing Promise*. “They brought a lot of skill. Without them, I doubt we would have been able to finish.”

CBMU 303 ‘Bees also renovated and restored Guatemala’s Iglesia San Francisco de Asis, a century-old church, with the help of the Guatemalan military’s company of engineers, el Cuerpo De Ingenieros Del Ejercito.

“This is a beautiful friendship and experience,” said Sgt. 2nd Class Hermenegildo Cuxun, Guatemalan Army. “Not only are we working together to do something good, but we are learning a lot from our American counterparts.”

(Continued on next page)

(Left) Seabees assigned to CBMU 303, embarked aboard USS *Boxer* (LHD 4), offload and stage supplies to be used for renovations of schools in the villages of Aldeas Linares and Aldea El Higueral in Guatemala in May 2008.

Photo by MC2 Joshua Jarvis

Battalion Updates

SEABEES AROUND THE WORLD

School days in El Salvador

Salvadoran children may have a new outlook on learning, thanks to the 'Bees of CBMU 303. Working alongside El Salvador's Command of Engineers, Seabees renovated and repaired El Salvador's Miravalles and Acajutla's Canton la Sunza school houses in May. The team constructed new classrooms, refurbished old classrooms and flooring, rewired lighting and installed ceiling fans, and repaired the kitchen, bathrooms, windows and roofing over five days.

"Our biggest concern was getting everything working together as a whole," said Utilitiesman 3rd Class (SCW) Jeffrey Schuett, CBMU 303. "We had to make sure that the electrical worked with the water pumps, so we could get clean water into the kitchen and bathroom [at Canton la Sunza]."

During the projects at the Miravalles School, community members worked with the Seabees. Armed with an engineering degree, even the Miravalles School principal pitched in.

"Thank God we will be receiving a new classroom," said Alba Estupinyan, principal. "The community is very happy to be receiving the help."

Last stop: Peru

Seabees spent six days in Peru renovating two schools. CBMU 303 and NMCB 5 teamed up to complete major plumbing and electrical upgrades, roof and window replacement, as well as painting and landscaping. Due to upgrades in existing educational facilities, Seabees helped provide services to nearly 8,000 students in the region.

"Our time here in Peru has been a very busy and rewarding experience," said CAPT Peter K. Dallman, mission commander, *Continuing Promise*. "The work that has taken place has laid the foundation for future cooperation between the United States and Peru, and reflects and reinforces the strong friendship our two countries share."

Contributors – MCSA Ernesto Hernandez Fonte, 30th NCR Public Affairs; MC3 (SW) Porter Anderson, MC2 Joshua Jarvis, Private 1st Class Gisell Martinez and MC2 (SW/AW) Jessica R. Vargas, USS Boxer Public Affairs



CBMU 303's EA Jessie Taborda paints a window frame at the Guillermo Enrique Billinghurst School in Barranca, Peru, during *Continuing Promise* earlier this spring.

Photo by MC3 Matthew Jackson

(Below) Tents fill the basketball court of the Guillermo Enrique Billinghurst School in Barranca, Peru, where Seabees from CBMU 303 and NMCB 5 set up a temporary home during *Continuing Promise*. The Seabees worked together in May to renovate the facility for more than 1,500 Peruvian students.

Photo by MC2 Joshua Jarvis





Seabees in the Pacific

Seabees from NMCB 133 and Armed Forces of the Philippines soldiers from the 546th Engineer Construction Battalion work together to dig a trench at the site of the future septic tank filtration system for the Greenland subdivision project they are building as part of a *Pacific Partnership Engineering Civic Action Program*.

Photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Seabees Work Side by Side with Vietnamese, Filipino Engineers during *Pacific Partnership*

Contributors – MC3 Michael C. Barton and MC2 (SW) Mark Logico, Fleet Public Affairs Center; Edward Baxter, Military Sealift Command Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 and Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 1 teamed with engineers from both Vietnam and the Republic of the Philippines (RP) on engineering civic action programs during *Pacific Partnership 2008*. Seabees and partner-nation engineers conducted these programs alongside USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19) personnel participating in dental and medical programs throughout the summer.



Australian Army Engineer Sapper Pfc. Javier Studenko (left) and EO2 Luis Cruz, ACB 1, both assigned aboard the hospital ship USNS *Mercy* (T-AH19), lay blocks for the 250-foot wall perimeter at Vietnam's Ninh Hoa Orphanage in June 2008.

Photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Vietnam

The multinational team made improvements to a children's rehabilitation center in Nha Trang City and the Vinh Trung Clinic in Vinh Trung Village. At the rehabilitation center, Seabees installed doors, sinks, handrails and a rubberized floor in common areas. To ensure accessibility for children confined to wheelchairs, Seabees installed larger sinks positioned much lower to the ground.

"The students come from all over the province, and they are mostly from very poor families," said Tran Thi Ngoc Lien, the center's director. "We rely on help from outside sources to make improvements to the school."

At the Vinh Trung Clinic, Seabees repainted walls, updated lights, installed ceiling fans and built a steel-fabricated metal awning to be used as an outdoor patient waiting area. The Seabee-Vietnamese engineer team also installed a 1,500-liter water tower at the Dien Hoa Clinic.

"It feels really good to know we're making an impact on this community," said Builder 3rd Class Jonathan Raney, NMCB 133. "I'm taking something I love to do and making a difference in someone else's life."

Battalion Updates

SEABEES AROUND THE WORLD



Seabees from NMCB 133 and AFP soldiers from the 546th Engineer Construction Battalion carry a large wooden form to the construction site. The form will be used to create concrete manholes for the Greenland subdivision septic tank system.

Photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

NMCB 133

ACB 1

Republic of the Philippines

Seabees from NMCB 133 and soldiers of the 546th Engineer Construction Battalion from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) came together in Calbayog City as part of a *Pacific Partnership 2008* engineering civic action program (ENCAP) to finish five projects in 30 days. The Calbayog City main health center and Greenland waste water treatment facility were constructed from the ground up.

In constructing the Greenland facility, Seabees and AFP engineers dug a large hole for six septic tanks. This septic system is the first in Samar to meet the Clean Water Act passed by the government of the Philippines in 2004.

Throughout each project, synergy played a key role in work styles and construction methods.

"The Filipinos build their tools onsite," said Builder Constructionman Steven Kline, NMCB 133, "Instead of buying a regular hacksaw, they made the frame out of a bent piece of rebar. They fit the blade in there and it works just like any hacksaw I've used."

As the projects continued, the same people who had to learn to overcome differences concluded that one could not complete the projects without the other.

"Either without the Americans or without us we couldn't finish the job," said AFP Staff Sgt. Eduardo Dadula Jr., speaking in Tagalog, the native language of RP.

Civic Action Team Holds Gun Demo

By EQCA (SCW) Keith Casey, NMCB 133

Though World War II ended more than 63 years ago, daily reminders of the conflict are found all across the Republic of Palau.

One recent example was a Japanese twin-barreled anti-aircraft (AA) gun that was slowly rusting away a few hundred yards behind Camp Katuu in Airai State, home of the Seabees of Civic Action Team (CAT) 133-24. Steelworker 1st Class (SCW) Joshua Scaturo, a CAT member, identified the gun as Type 96 - 25 mm auto cannon with a 7-man crew; approximately 33,000 of these weapons were produced by Japan from 1936-1945.

As part of an agreement between the Palau Bureau of Arts and Culture and the State of Airai, the CAT received permission to move the weapon onto Camp Katuu and begin restoration. The agreement also required the team to hold a public demonstration of the restoration process, which the Seabees of CAT 133-24 hosted in late June.



SW1 (SCW) Joshua Scaturo, CAT 133-24, explains the techniques used to restore and preserve a WWII-era Japanese anti-aircraft gun at Camp Katuu in the Republic of Palau, June 25.

Photo by LTJG Riley W. Smith

"There are so many of these Japanese weapons out there, and we didn't know how to restore them. This is a major contribution to Palau's cultural heritage," said Jolie Liston, senior archeologist from Garcia and Associates, a Pan-Pacific archeological firm based in California, and one of the attendees.

As part of the course, Scaturo discussed the restoration and preservation process in detail. The first step involved removing more than six decades of accumulated dirt and grime from the weapon. Next he removed as much surface rust as possible using a wire brush before applying a layer of oil to the cleaned weapon. The final step was priming and coating the gun with a coat of rust-inhibiting paint to protect it from further damage.

By teaching the people of Palau how to preserve a relic from an important time in their history, the Seabees of CAT 133-24 are fulfilling one of their principal responsibilities in Palau – to work with the local community and strengthen ties between Palau and the United States.

"It's nice to be able to save a little piece of history for the future," Scaturo said.



Seabees on the

U.S. Border

SW1 Kirk Hendler, NMCB 23, operates a smooth drum roller to compact a road surface. The road will be used by the U.S. Border Patrol agents when responding to transnational threats along the U.S.-Mexico border in southern Arizona.

Photo by EO1 (SCW) Lisa Helman

JTF NORTH: PROVIDING BORDER SECURITY TO THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

Based at Biggs Army Airfield, Fort Bliss, Texas, Joint Task Force (JTF) North is a joint service command comprised of active duty and reserve component Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Department of Defense (DoD), civilian employees and contracted support personnel responding to requests from federal law enforcement agencies for military support.

Actively seeking military units to volunteer in providing requested operational support, JTF North seeks support appropriated and in compliance with guidelines for using military forces in the continental United States. Once a unit volunteers, JTF North facilitates mission planning and execution with the unit and supported agency. All missions must have training value to the unit or contribute significantly to national security.

JTF North engineer support missions are varied, consisting of projects such as road construction and improvement, border perimeter lighting installation, border fence construction, and vehicle barrier construction. Engineering support missions are long-term operations planned up to two years before execution, and may consist of multiple-phase operations taking several months or years to complete. At this time, DoD policy restricts JTF North engineering support only to the Southwest border.

JTF North border engineer support missions have been conducted primarily near the following locations: Arizona – Douglas, Naco, Nogales and Yuma; California – El Centro and San Diego; New Mexico – Columbus; and Texas – Del Rio, Eagle Pass, El Paso, Laredo and Van Horn.



EA3 Mitchell Kerr surveys the area along the U.S.-Mexico border prior to the construction of a one-mile, all-weather road to be used by U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Photo by EO1 (SCW) Lisa Helman

NMCB 23 Answers Military Support Request from U.S. Border Patrol

NMCB 23

By EO1 (SCW) Lisa Helman, NMCB 23, and Armando Carrasco, Joint Task Force North Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23 spent four months along the U.S.-Mexico border in response to a military assistance request submitted by the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP), Tucson Sector.

The Seabees, based at Fort Belvoir, Va., constructed a one-mile, all-weather border road and seven steel-reinforced concrete low water crossings west of the Douglas, Ariz., port of entry. The border projects are designed to improve the Border Patrol agents' ability to respond to homeland security incidents in a faster and safer manner. The U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector's area of operations is the site of the highest number of illegal and drug trafficking crossings in the nation.

The mission was coordinated by Joint Task Force (JTF) North, the U.S. Northern Command unit tasked to support federal law enforcement agencies in the identification and interdiction of suspected transnational threats within and along the approaches to the continental United States. The project is

a continuation of the southwest border infrastructure engineer missions that JTF North has been executing in support of the USBP, Tucson Sector since 1992.

The operation, which began in January, was executed in fulfillment of the Seabees' annual reserve training requirements. To accomplish the mission, the reserve unit established and

"This experience will serve us well when we deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom later this year."

CMCS Thomas C. Green, Mission Commander, NMCB 23

maintained a project duration staff consisting of three petty officers, one chief petty officer and one senior chief petty officer. All other supporting personnel deployed from their home stations in groups of 10 and rotated into the mission site every two weeks. A total of 130 Seabees participated in the project.

"NMCB 23 took on this mission for the training opportunity it presented," said Senior Chief Construction Mechanic (SCW) Thomas C. Green, mission commander for the second phase of the operation. "It has been a long time since we

have done any major horizontal (road) engineer work.

"It also gave us a chance to work in a desert environment much like that of the Middle East," Green continued. "This experience will serve us well when we deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom later this year."

The mission allowed the Seabees to completely exercise their deployment capabilities.

The unit's leadership gained the opportunity to plan the engineer support mission, deploy personnel from various locations throughout the eastern United States, execute construction projects and re-deploy to home stations. In addition, NMCB 23 worked in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and numerous civilian contractors and suppliers.

"This mission gave the new Seabees who joined our unit over the past 18 months much-needed on-the-job training," Green said, "and was a great way to introduce them to the Seabee 'Can Do' way of life."

30th NCR

CAPT Kelly J. Schmader is piped aboard during the 30th NCR's change of command ceremony on the main parade field at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., June 20. Schmader took command of the 30th NCR from CAPT Katherine L. Gregory.

Photo by MCSA Ernesto Hernandez Fonte



Schmader Takes Charge of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment

By MCSA Ernesto Hernandez Fonte, 30th NCR Public Affairs

CAPT Kelly J. Schmader took command of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) from CAPT Katherine L. Gregory in a change of command ceremony at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., June 20. RADM Richard E. Cellon, commander, First Naval Construction Division (1NCD), presided over the ceremony.

"I don't want to give up the job, but if anyone should take it over it's you [Schmader]," said Gregory, who served as the commodore of the 30th NCR for two years, including an Iraq deployment. "Our Seabees exemplify the best our country has to offer. I trust them to your hands."

Gregory is now chief of staff, 1NCD, Little Creek, Va.

"CAPT Gregory has left me with a recipe for success," Schmader said. "The regiment does an outstanding job supporting our Seabees, both deployed and at homeport. It's an honor to be the leader of this organization."

Schmader previously wore the dual hat of both commander of the 31st Seabee Readiness Group and commanding officer of the Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center. He has also served as the deputy commander for Operations of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic and commanding officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3.



Miller Relieves Stoddard as UCT 1 Commanding Officer

UCT 1

By Daryl C. Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 1NCD

LCDR Gregory C. Miller relieved LCDR Daniel M. Stoddard as commanding officer (CO) of Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 on June 13 at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Norfolk, Va. CAPT Jeffrey T. Borowy, commander, 25th Naval Construction Regiment, served as guest speaker.

Stoddard served as CO of UCT 1 since May 2006. He is now assistant operations officer for Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast.

Miller was previously director of the Facilities Engineering and Acquisition Division for NAVFAC Hawaii's Public Works Department in Pearl Harbor.

LCDR Gregory Miller (right) receives UCT 1's flag from LCDR Daniel Stoddard (center) and CUCM (SCW/MDV) Jeffery J. Moxley.

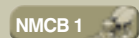
Photo by CECN (DV) Timothy D. Dailey



Wiles is New NMCB 1 CO

After taking command of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, CDR Stanley W. Wiles speaks during the ceremony on board NCBC Gulfport, Miss., June 27. Wiles relieved CDR Dean A. Tufts who is now operations officer for NAVFAC Far East.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon



Jones Steps in as NCTC Commander

CDR Stephanie M. Jones, commanding officer of Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC), Gulfport, Miss., is saluted as she walks through the sideboys at the conclusion of a change of command ceremony held at NCBC Gulfport, June 13. Jones relieved CAPT Darius Banaji as commanding officer. Banaji is now operations officer for NAVFAC Southeast.

Photo by MC1 (SW) Terry Spain

Worcester Assumes Command of NFELC and 31st SRG

By Linda Wadley, Public Affairs Officer, NFELC

CAPT James A. Worcester relieved CAPT Kelly J. Schmader as commanding officer, Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (NFELC) and commander, 31st Seabee Readiness Group (SRG), in a change of command ceremony at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif., June 13.

During the ceremony, guest speaker RADM Richard E. Cellon, commander, First Naval Construction Division, and commander, Naval Construction Forces Command, presented the Legion of Merit to Schmader for his leadership and exemplary accomplishments while serving dual commands from July 2006 to June 2008. Schmader's next assignment is commander of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment in Port Hueneme.

"I fully recognize that I have some big shoes to fill and a first-class act to follow – but you know I will give it my best," Worcester said. "I will make one pledge. To all of you who serve the Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center and the 31st Seabee Readiness Group so well, 24/7...I pledge that I will try to give you the same outstanding leadership that CAPT Schmader has for the past two years."

Worcester's most recent assignment was deputy commander for Operations, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic.



CAPT James A. Worcester (center) completes the passing of unit colors from CAPT Kelly J. Schmader (left) signifying transfer of command of the Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center and 31st Seabee Readiness Group during the change of command ceremony on June 13 at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme, Calif.

Photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge



CMDCM Alvin A. (Randy) Kuehn
U.S. Navy photo

Seabees Bid Final Farewell to Former Command Master Chief

By NAVFAC Headquarters Public Affairs and Communications

Alvin A. (Randy) Kuehn, EQCM/CMDCM, USN, (Ret.) passed away at Garden Park Hospital, Gulfport, Miss., on August 6.

Kuehn served as Master Chief of the Seabees from 1998 to 2001 at NAVFAC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Prior to this position, he served as the command master chief of the 3rd Naval Construction Brigade, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, representing the Pacific Fleet Seabees. During his 32+ year Navy career, Kuehn was stationed in many locations around the world. He was advanced to master chief petty officer while assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7; following his 1996 graduation from the Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy, he served as the command master chief of the battalion.

When Kuehn retired in 2002, his awards included the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medals, Navy Achievement Medals, and various other individual and unit awards.

A devoted husband and Seabee, Randy will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

NMCB 1 'Bees Earn Navy League Awards

By MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon, NMCB 1

For outstanding performance on their most recent deployment to separate combat locations in Iraq, two Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 received awards from the Navy League of the United States (NLUS) on board Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., July 8.



CDR Stanley Wiles (left), commander, NMCB 1, presents the 2008 Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Competence to SW1 (SCW) Scott Baker, NMCB 1.

Photos by MC2 Demetrius Kennon

Senior Chief Utilitiesman (SCW/FMF) Lisa Hall received the 2008 CAPT Winifred Quick Collins Award for Inspirational Leadership, and Steelworker 1st Class (SCW) Scott Baker received the 2008 Stephen Decatur

Award for Operational Competence.

CAPT Winifred Collins, a former assistant chief of naval personnel, set a high standard of leadership for women serving in the U.S. military. The NLUS presents the award bearing her name annually to two servicewomen – one officer and one enlisted.

While deployed to Iraq, Hall served as the leading chief petty officer for NMCB 1's Marine Expeditionary Force training department and the assistant officer in charge of Detachment Al Taqaddum.

In the early 1800s, Commodore Stephen Decatur set an admirable example of operational competence during his service as a naval officer. Petty Officer Baker honored Decatur's legacy with his leadership while assigned as the assistant convoy commander of NMCB 1's convoy security element. During more than 100 missions, Baker led a team of 30 Seabees through several improvised explosive device attacks in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

Baker's performance on deployment was also instrumental in achieving his recent selection for promotion to chief petty officer.



UTCS (SCW/FMF) Lisa Hall, NMCB 1, is the recipient of the 2008 CAPT Winifred Quick Collins Award for Inspirational Leadership.



Navy Chopper Safety Shifts into High Gear

By MC1 Aaron Peterson
Naval Base Ventura County Public Affairs

Nationwide motorcycle fatalities are at their highest level since 1987. Navy statistics follow this pattern very closely, with first-time riders accounting for many of the military's fatalities.

"Motorcycles are an inherently high-risk form of transportation," said CAPT Brad Connors, commanding officer, Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Port Hueneme, Calif. "Although they account for only two percent of all vehicles on the road, they produce 10 percent of the fatalities."

According to the Navy Traffic Safety Program, OPNAV Instruction 5100.12H, operators of government-owned and privately owned motorcycles (both on and off base, in the United States and overseas) must successfully complete a motorcycle safety course approved by the Commander, Naval Safety Center (COMNAVSAFECEN) prior to operating these vehicles. Personal protective equipment designated in this regulation must also be worn while operating the vehicles.

Naval bases, including NBVC, sponsor COMNAVSAFECEN-approved motorcycle safety programs and group rides to promote training and proficiency. These hands-on educational initiatives are designed to present a proactive approach to the safety and well-being of military members on bikes.

Participants from NBVC's "Midsummer Motorcycle Ride for Safety" arrive back at Point Mugu, Calif., following the ride in August. Approximately 60 active duty, military reservists and Department of Defense employees took to the road to promote hands-on safety and awareness.

Photo by MC1 Aaron Peterson

VISIT THESE RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NAVY SAFETY CENTER

<http://safetycenter.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle/motorcycle/>

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY.COM

<http://www.motorcyclesafetyinfo.com/>

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/motorcycle.htm>



TRAINING

ACBs 1, 2 Build Port Facilities for JLOTS 2008

By MC3 Brian Morales, ACB 1 Public Affairs

How do you transport cargo to an area without port facilities? For Amphibious Construction Battalions (ACBs) 1 and 2 Seabees assigned to Joint Task Force 8, the answer is simple: You build them.

Joint Task Force 8, created to conduct *JLOTS 2008* (also called *Pacific Strike 2008*) from June to August at Camp Pendleton, Calif., is the combination of Task Force JLOTS (Joint Logistics Over The Shore), headed by Naval Beach Group (NBG) 1, and Task Force RSO (Reception, Staging and Onward Movement), led by the 45th Sustainment Brigade.

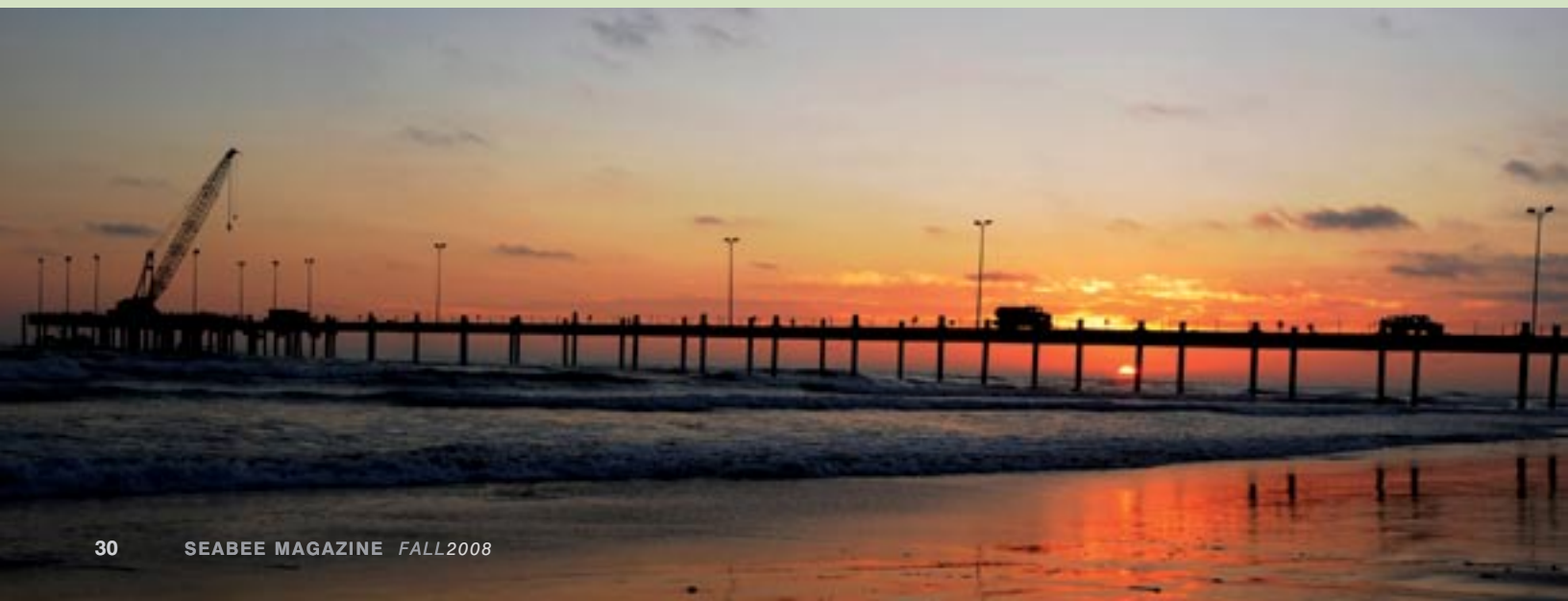
JLOTS 2008 combines Navy and Army forces under a Joint Forces Command (JFC) for the loading and unloading of ships without the benefit of deep draft-capable, fixed-port facilities. TF JLOTS moved cargo from the 25th Infantry Division using Navy and Army Roll-on/Roll-off Discharge Facilities from ship-to-shore using a 1,200-foot Army Trident Pier, the Navy Elevated Causeway System-Modular (ELCAS-M) and conventional beaches to complete the instream offload of nearly 1,300 pieces of rolling stock and 20-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) from USNS *PILILAAU* (T-AKR 304), across the beach at Camp Pendleton.

As part of the exercise, ACBs 1 and 2 constructed the 1,280-foot ELCAS-M pier, a system of causeway sections that starts with the beach ramp, followed by numerous roadway sections, and ends with a 240-foot long by 72-foot wide pier head. The pier head provides space for two 175-ton cranes and two turntables to reduce the space required to turn the offloading vehicles. The ELCAS-M can offload 220 to 300 containers per day, depending on the seastate.

During *JLOTS 2008*, ACBs 1 and 2 offloaded the entire ELCAS-M system from the SS *FLICKERTAIL STATE* (T-ACS 5), constructed the pier and turntables, executed Load-on/Load-off (LO/LO) operations, and then disassembled and retrograded the entire system back onto the crane ship *FLICKERTAIL STATE*.

"We actually started construction five days behind schedule, but found a way to complete it on time," said LTJG Jim Johncock, ELCAS-M officer in-charge of the night crew.

"It's been impressive to see [the ELCAS-M crew] work hard for 12 hours, get off and come back to work hard the next day," Johncock said. "I'm very pleased with our work, everyone's dedication and I'm glad we met our mission."





(Above) The Army Trident pier approaches Gold Beach, Camp Pendleton, Calif., during JLOTS 2008 in July.

Photo by MC2 Brian P. Caracci

(Right) Seabees assigned to ACB 1 offload a structural piece of an ELCAS onto the Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) Causeway Ferry 1.

(Opposite, top) SN Rafael Garcia, ACB 1, secures a structural piece of the ELCAS offloaded from the Military Sealift Command auxiliary crane ship SS *Flickertail State* (T-ACS 5) onto the INLS Causeway Ferry 1 during JLOTS 2008 in June.

Photos by MC3 Brian Morales

(Opposite, bottom) Military vehicles drive across an ELCAS as the sun sets in the distance at Red Beach, Camp Pendleton, Calif., in July.

Photo by MC2 Brian P. Caracci





UCT 1

Seabee Divers Support Multinational Training in the Black Sea

Submitted by Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs

Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 divers, based at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., traveled across the globe in July to the Black Sea to train their counterparts from the Ukraine, Macedonia, Denmark, Great Britain and Latvia on battle damage assessment and repair, U.S. diving techniques, port opening concepts and emergency diving medicine.

The 11th annual multinational training, Exercise *Sea Breeze 2008*, promotes interoperability with Black Sea nations and NATO under the Partnership for Peace program. Incorporating 16 countries and more than 2,000 service members, *Sea Breeze* is a joint and combined maritime exercise held annually in the Black Sea and at various land-based Ukrainian training facilities with the goals of strengthening maritime security and stability, sharing information, and building teamwork and mutual cooperation.

“As UCT 1, we’re tasked to provide diving engineer expertise to our multinational partners to promote theater security and cooperation,” said Chief Construction Electrician (SCW/MDV) Christopher Taylor, detachment officer-in-charge. “This is vitally important to enhancing interoperability and preventing war in a global environment in accordance with our new maritime strategy.”

BU1 Jon Karulf (right) prepares LT Li Ping Sung, executive officer of UCT 1 and commander, Task Group 367.1.3, to enter the water during underwater lifting training aboard Ukrainian search and rescue tug UPN *Krements* as part of *Sea Breeze 2008*. Sixteen participating nations in the 11th anniversary exercise included the Ukrainian hosts and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Macedonia, Norway, Romania, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Photo by MC3 Eddie Harrison



SKSA Jeremy Foster, NMCB 11, dons his Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear for a simulated chemical agent attack during Operation *Tandem Fury* in Gulfport, Miss., in June.

Photo by MC2 Erick S. Holmes

NMCB 11 Whips Through Operation *Tandem Fury*

NMCB 11

By MC2 Erick S. Holmes, NMCB 11 Public Affairs

The newly established Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 completed Operation *Tandem Fury*, its first field training exercise (FTX) in more than 40 years in Gulfport, Miss., in June. *Tandem Fury* tested the battalion's readiness for a contingency deployment to the Central Command area of operations early next year.

The evolution included a 48-hour mount out of its Air Detachment (Air DET), followed by loading and transport of 42 pieces of Civil Engineer Support Equipment (CESE) by 75 Seabees on three C-17 Globemaster planes, piloted by the Air National Guard from Gulfport to Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Miss. NMCB 11's Main Body also convoyed from Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport to Logistical Support Area (LSA) Joe Gillie at Camp Shelby to move more than 90 pieces of CESE and 400+ Seabees to the LSA.

Leading up to 'D-Day,' the tempo increased, with attacks on the Main Body camp and DET sites causing NMCB 11 to go fully tactical with Kevlar helmets, outer tactical vests, Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear and firearms on their person at all times. During the FTX, 'Bees constructed a vertical take-off and landing pad, a heavy timber bunker and 15-foot tower, a crows nest

fighting position, an 18-meter medium girder bridge, a redundant camp power grid, shower and galley facilities, and a state-of-the-art Command Operations Center (COC).

The battalion became the first to use Blue Force Tracker (BFT) in the COC to communicate directly with the CSE via Talk Lite. NMCB 11 used a visual display of the Command and Control Personal

“...we can be called upon at any time. Be ready – I know you will.”

CDR Stephen K. Revelas,
Commanding Officer, NMCB 11

Computer (C2PC) program, the BFT platform and a rolling intelligence summary to provide improved situational awareness for the entire COC.

NMCB 11 was also able to share the FTX experience with two midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy, Midshipman 1st Class Jeremiah Smith and Midshipman 2nd Class Kristen Keeler.

Chief Builder (SCW) Michael “Brent” Grimes reenlisted in the field, with the oath administered by LT Cory McGraw,

as they were both dressed in full MOPP gear. In addition, after taking her board in the field, Legalman 1st Class Deborah Johnson became NMCB 11's first enlisted Seabee to be awarded the Seabee Combat Warfare device.

Toward the end of *Tandem Fury*, RADM Richard Cellon, commander, First Naval Construction Division, toured the camp and had lunch with the troops. Cellon discussed today's Seabees, as well as future plans for the Naval Construction Force.

“He was really interested in us... who we are and where we've been,” said Engineering Aide Constructionman Dustin Dyer, who received a coin from Cellon.

NMCB 11's rich history continues. “The torch was passed ceremoniously, from those 200 veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam [at NMCB 11's re-commissioning] last September,” said CDR Stephen K. Revelas, NMCB 11's commanding officer, during a troop debriefing.

“But over the last three weeks it was passed for real, to you, the next great generation of NMCB 11 Seabees,” Revelas said. “From here on out, we can be called upon at any time. Be ready – I know you will.”

NMCB 1

Seabees Train For Disaster

Seabees from Naval Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 completed the 'Basic Rescue for Seabees Course,' held at Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss., in May. The course is designed to train the 'Bees to be proficient members of a rescue team that can be deployed to assist in disaster recovery efforts or other emergency situations. During the course, Seabees learn various rescue skills such as knot tying, cribbing and jacking techniques, as well as ladder rescue and field rigging procedures.



(Above left) SWCN Shane Henderson, NMCB 1, begins rigging a pulley to a steel beam to pull simulated casualties from a hole during the course.

Photo by MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon



(Above right) PCSN Jason Warren, NMCB 1, strings a support rope through a pulley during the basic rescue course at NCBC Gulfport, Miss.

Photo by MC1 Chad Runge



(Above, left to right) Seabees assigned to NMCB 1 work together to erect a ladder during the course which trains battalion members in several skills and techniques, including teambuilding during rescue-oriented scenarios.

HM2 Tiffany Little, NMCB 1, secures a recently raised ladder which will serve as an integral component in an upcoming rescue skill exercise.

Seabees assigned to NMCB 1 raise an 'A' frame pulley system used to hoist casualties from holes during the 'Basic Rescue for Seabees Course' at NCBC Gulfport, Miss., in May.

Photos by MC2 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon



UT2 Wesley Boyd, CBMU 202, received a commendation from the Virginia Beach Police Department in May. Boyd was recognized for his actions during a shooting at his apartment complex.

U.S. Navy photo by Daryl C. Smith, 1NCD

CBMU 202 SEABEE'S RESPONSE TO SHOOTING EARNS COMMENDATION

By Daryl C. Smith, Public Affairs Officer, 1NCD
Utilitiesman 2nd Class Wesley Boyd, CBMU 202, was awarded a commendation from the Virginia Beach Police Department at a ceremony on May 30 for his level-headed response to a shooting at his apartment complex.

On March 19, Boyd was in the exercise room of the complex when he heard gunshots. Moments later, the apartment manager ran in, shouting that she had been shot. After quickly moving his girlfriend and baby into another room, Boyd went back to assist the apartment manager, helping stop the bleeding and keeping her calm until paramedics arrived. Three other apartment employees had been wounded, and two were killed during the incident. It was later discovered that the gunman was a resident of the complex who had killed himself shortly after the shootings.

Boyd explained that his Navy training played a large role in his response to the crisis. He added that although the training seemed repetitive at the time, it was that repetition that made his response seem second nature.

He added, "My advice to anyone is that when you do that training, take away as much of it as you can, because you never know when you'll need it."



COMMANDER IN CHIEF CONDUCTS RE-ENLISTMENT IN ROME

While on a visit to the Vatican, President George W. Bush re-enlisted CE1 Gregory Motyka in a brief ceremony in Rome, Italy, June 13. Motyka is attached to Naval Support Unit, State Department, within the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. He is assigned to the Engineering Services Office, U.S. Embassy Rome.

U.S. Navy photo

SEABEES TO BENEFIT FROM NEW TACTICAL TRAINING FACILITY

*By Sue Brink, Public Affairs Officer,
NAVFAC Southeast*

Construction of the 20th Seabee Readiness Group's (SRG's) new Tactical Training Facility (TTF) is underway on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss. This \$27.3 million facility is scheduled for a February 2009 completion and is located near the Tactical Communication facility, the Contingency Construction Crew Training facility, and the new armory that opened June 2008.

"Tactical convoy and weapons training is a big piece of our mission," said LCDR Andre Coleman, training officer, 20th SRG. "The new TTF enables us to provide Seabees training on the most up-to-date tactics, techniques and procedures."

Simulator training for these high-risk competencies supports the Fleet Readiness Training Plan (FTRTP), which is core to providing combatant commanders fully trained expeditionary forces.

"The Seabees will begin using these simulators before the TTF is completed," said LT Craig Clutts, assistant resident officer-in-charge of construction (AROICC) for Gulfport. "ROICC Gulfport and Public Works are working together to ensure temporary shelters and utility connections are in place to begin training as soon as the simulators arrive. Lockheed Martin plans to have the simulators ready for training by October 2008."

The TTF will complete the 20th SRG campus, enabling better coordination between various departments within the SRG.

"One major benefit of the TTF is the larger classrooms," added Coleman. "We will be able to simultaneously train two 30-person convoy security elements. Additionally, the upgraded multimedia package in TTF is Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI)-compliant and will greatly increase connectivity."

In line with big-Navy and the FTRTP, the TTF helps improve unit-level training and certification of required skill sets of the five local Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCBs). The NMCBs are taking on an increasingly important role of squad, fire-team and individual skill attainment. Together, the Gulfport team will continue to adapt to the changing demand signal and provide Seabees with mission-tailored training.

SEABEE REUNIONS

NOVEMBER

ASA Det A, CBU 201, CHB 1, NSFA Det A, NMCB 8, Old Antarctic Explorers Assoc. (inc. MCB Special) NOV. 5-7 Pensacola, FL
Les Liptak, 850-492-1666 5220 Choctaw Ave.
Pensacola, FL 32507

FEBRUARY

FEB 27 - MAR 1 Hampton, VA
EAST COAST ALL SEABEE REUNION 30th, 31st and 32nd NCRs, 3rd NCB
Bruce MacDougall
804-921-4753
7305 Cannonade Ct.
Midlothian, VA 23112
Seabeemacd40@comcast.net

NMCB 1 (All Eras)
Peter Dowd, 781-837-0393
89 Edwards Rd.
Marshfield, MA 02050
mcb1reunion@verizon.net

NMCB 3 Mini Reunion (All Eras)
Jeff Teeters
510 Michigan St.
Mount Dora, FL 32757
archives@nmcb3.org

NMCB 4 (Vietnam Era)
Dennis Culbertson
239-997-9014
484 Avanti Way Blvd.
North Fort Myers, FL 33917
cubby3410@aol.com

NMCB 5 (Vietnam Era)
Felix J. Costa, 843-655-0426
5803 Tinsley Ct
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fcosta@sc.rr.com

NMCB 6
John Bevier, 231-633-9450
5200 W. Sanborn Rd.
Lake City, MI 49651
jbevier@michweb.net

NMCB 10 (All Eras)
Bill Annett, 619-449-6742
10954 Easthaven Ct.
Santee, CA 92071

NMCB 23 (All Eras)
Dave Preston, 804-512-7746
15313 Featherchase Dr.
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EQCM O. Price Richardson
540-389-0555
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price_richardson@howellsmotor.com

NMCB 74
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2616 W. Chubb Lake Ave.
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
seabee@aol.com

103rd NCB, Seabee Team 1024
Donald F. Kunz, 651-468-1322
7262 Imperial Ave., S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016-1944
mnseabee1@msn.com

NMCB 121
Mike Wilson, 317-299-6242
4021 Gamay Ln.
Indianapolis, IN 46254
wmike121@sbcglobal.net

NMCB 128 Mini Reunion (Vietnam Era)
George McDanel, 618-259-4694
204 E. Airwood Dr.
East Alton, IL 62024
mcdanelgk@aol.com

NMCB 133 Mini Reunion
James E. White, 603-524-2704
59 Maple Cir.
Sanbornton, NH 03269
jimw133@aol.com

CBMU 302 Mini Reunion, NSA Saigon, Naval Advisory Group-Vietnam, HEDSUPPACT-Saigon
Dave Schill, 609-410-5969
132 Harding Ave.
Moorestown, NJ 08057
dwschill@comcast.net

NSA/NSF Danang (All Detachments)
Jerry Hubbs, 502-491-8794
3115 Pomeroy Dr.
Louisville, KY 40220
gghubbs@msn.com

ACBs 1 & 2 (Vietnam Era)
Skip Nelson, 516-379-6562
95A Nassau Rd.
Roosevelt, NY 11575

PWD Edzell, Scotland Mini Reunion
CM1 Norm Hahn
715-834-4780
1805 Oaklawn Dr.
Eau Claire, WI 54703
nhahnjr@sbcglobal.net

For a complete list of reunions, visit www.allseabees.com or the Seabee Historical Foundation at www.seabeehf.org.

Sage Advice

As the Naval Construction Force celebrates the pinning of its newest chiefs, several experienced leaders share some wisdom with their new messmates.



From left to right, Bradshaw, Darrah, Holland, Ingham, McKinney, Palmer and Urserly.

U.S. Navy photos

Chief Construction Electrician

Alexander C. Bradshaw, NMCB 4

Chief anchors are not to be earned just once – they must be earned each and every day.

Master Chief Utilitiesman Constructionman (SCW)

Richard Darrah, 22nd NCR

About 20 years ago, I remember a senior chief gave me the following piece of advice – ‘As you progress through the ranks, know yourself, know your people, and always be fair and consistent. This will take you a long way in the Navy.’ I took this to heart, and this is good advice for all the newly pinned chiefs. Knowing myself and my limitations has allowed me to set expectations for the betterment of my junior Seabees and the promotion of mission accomplishment.

Senior Chief Constructionman Electrician (SCW)

Curtis Holland, 22nd NCR

‘Start where you are. Use what you have. Finish what you started.’ This advice was given to me by a master chief during my chief’s initiation seven years ago, which was also a very challenging time of my life for other reasons. This advice is something that is near and dear to me. I try to shape the things I do according to these words of wisdom. I don’t let limitations get in my way of finishing what I started.

Chief Equipment Operator (SCW)

Michael Ingham, 22nd NCR

When I was a newly frocked E-5 in a Seabee battalion, I got into a lot of trouble. My detachment assistant officer-in-charge, a master chief, told me that it’s okay to make a decision as long as you are prepared to live with the consequences of that decision. As an E-5, I

thought I understood this, but in reality, I didn’t fully understand its meaning until I was selected for chief. It was drilled into me during induction that the decisions I make not only affect me, but my troops as well. If you have 10 seconds to make a decision, nine of those seconds should be used figuring out how it will affect those under you.

Senior Chief Utilitiesman (SCW)

James McKinney, 22nd NCR

The best advice I ever received was from a senior chief during my chief’s initiation six years ago – ‘It’s not about you anymore. It’s about your people.’ From that point on, whatever word was passed or tasking was assigned, I needed to be concerned about how it affected my Seabees and not me. To me, it also means telling a Seabee what’s best for [his or her] career, and not what is the easiest path.

Senior Chief Equipment Operator

Frank C. Palmer, NMCB 4

‘It’s not about me!’

‘There is no place for pride in the Chiefs’ Mess.’

‘Come humble or go home.’

And, as Colin Powell said, “Being responsible sometimes means pissing people off.”

Chief Builder Rodney Urserly , NMCB 4

Lead by example. Our Sailors like to see the chief follow the regulations and standards we are charged to enforce, or a chief who occasionally dons his/her PPE to work alongside them. You will be pleasantly surprised at the amount of motivation it will inspire in your Sailors and the respect you will earn. And, do not task your Sailors with work you would not yourself be willing to do.

Construimus ★ Batuimus

BEE □ CAM



(From left to right) YN3 (SCW) Justin Ferebee, YNSA Gabriel Rodriguez and PSSN Corey Burns, NMCB 3, are engulfed in a sand storm as they walk to the galley at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in June.
Photo by MC1 Carmichael Yepez



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